

BOARD OF PAROLE HEARINGS
Board Meeting
January 22, 2014

OPEN SESSION

1515 K Street
Executive Board Meeting Room
Suite 550
Sacramento, California 95814

BOARD ITEM

Issue: Should the board's advisory committees be dissolved?

Background:

In September 2011, the board created six advisory committees. Each commissioner was assigned to at least one advisory committee based on his or her interest, expertise, and skill. The board agreed to evaluate the number, scope, and membership of its advisory committees periodically, but not less than annually. In addition, the board adopted several guidelines for the advisory committees.

In May 2012 the board consolidated the six advisory committees into three and expanded board membership for each committee. Each committee was comprised of five board members and advisory committee meetings were noticed and open to the public. The board also agreed to periodically evaluate the number, scope, and membership of its advisory committees.

Advisory committees were to meet regularly and routinely report on the status of their work, including findings and recommendations to the board *en banc*. Several productive advisory committee meetings were held.

The board has experienced challenges with advisory committees since 2011, calling into question the efficiency and need for advisory committees.

One of the more significant challenges is due to board members being from geographically diverse areas of California. In addition, the board's hearing schedules necessitate that commissioners spend their work weeks in separate locations throughout the state and hearing schedules vary each week, resulting in advisory committees members having little time to collaborate on advisory committee projects.

While formal advisory committees provided an additional opportunity for receiving public input, they also significantly limited the number of opportunities for advisory committee work to be addressed, due to commissioners' hearing schedules.

Should advisory committees be dissolved, all significant recommendations concerning policies and procedures impacting board hearings will continue to be presented to the board, *en banc*, at its monthly public board meetings. Public input will continue to be sought at those meetings as well as through various stakeholder meetings.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the board formally dissolve its advisory committees